

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Poland

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT

Miscellaneous Information on
the Bielsk Podlaski Area

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REFERENCES

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1. The erection of a large linen spinning mill in Bielsk Podlaski, about 50 kilometers from Bialystok, was begun in 1948. The mill was not complete, but a large number of workers were preparing the raw material. Flax was obtained from the neighboring villages, and was already being subjected to retting and drying processes in preparation for the installation of spinning machinery in the factory.
2. There were about ten kolkhozes in the Bielsk Podlaski area, all of them small and consisting of about 20 families each. Most of them were White Russians.
3. In July 1951 there were almost 1,400 prisoners, including women, in the Bialystok jail. The prisoners included black marketeers and persons accused of carrying on whispering campaigns and underground activities against the government. Prisoners received a half kilo of bread per day, a liter of black coffee in the morning, and soup at mid-day and in the evening. Up to 50 men were put in one cell. Prisoners were taken out for exercise once a day for five minutes.

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